

Standard 8-7: The student will demonstrate an understanding of South Carolina's economic revitalization during World War II and the latter twentieth century.

8-7.3 Explain how the increased industrialization and mechanization, the reduction in cotton production, and the emigration of African Americans both resulted from and contributed to agricultural decline in South Carolina. (H, E)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand / Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

In 5th grade students summarized changes in the United States economy following World War II, including the expanding job market and service industry, consumerism, and new technology (5-5.1). They also explained how humans change the physical environment of regions and the consequences of such changes, including use of natural resources and the expansion of transportation systems (5-5.2).

In United States history students will explain the causes and effects of social and cultural change in postwar America (USHC 9.1).

It is essential for students to know

Students should have a foundation in economic change in the United States in the postwar period and the focus on economic changes in South Carolina will deepen this understanding. By focusing on the impact of industrialization and mechanization on the economy of South Carolina and the emigration of African Americans, 8th grade students will be better able to understand the causes of social and cultural change in postwar America that they will study in United States history.

During World War II many workers, especially African Americans, left the farm, for factory jobs in towns in South Carolina or in wartime industries across the nation. Landowners turned to crops that could be harvested by machine such as soybeans. Many returning veterans did not return to the farm. Depopulation led to an even greater reliance on mechanization and fewer acres planted in cotton which was still harvested by hand. By the mid 1950s, tobacco had replaced cotton as the most important crop in the state. Unable to buy the expensive equipment needed to plant and harvest their crops sharecroppers and tenant farmers left the countryside. Others borrowed to buy equipment. In the postwar period, new farming methods and the use of fertilizers led to increased yields, overproduction and falling prices. This drove many small farmers out of business. Falling prices left farmers unable to pay their loans so they too left the farm for cities and towns. By the 1970s, more South Carolinians lived in cities than in rural areas.

Many found jobs in industries that had been attracted by state efforts (8-7.2). As a result of industrialization and mechanization, South Carolina's economy changed from one that was based on agriculture to one based on manufacturing and tourism in the postwar period.

It is not essential for students to know

Students do not need to know the number of people who left the farms nor do they need to know the percentage of the decline in numbers of acres planted.

Assessment guidelines:

Appropriate assessments would require students to **explain** how the attraction of jobs in developing industries and the mechanization of farming contributed to the depopulation of rural areas and the decline of agriculture in South Carolina. Students should be able to **interpret maps and graphs** that show these changes in South Carolina's economy.